



LEICESTER

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Leicester recently recognized that there will be certain spill-over effects of regional growth, particularly since this is an abutting community to the City of Worcester, and at the town meeting overwhelmingly passed critical zoning changes that would be conducive to second level industries such as machine tooling, plastics, and hardware products for the high-tech and bio-tech companies. These companies will find somewhat less expensive land and a lowered amount of competition for acceptable parcels.

Large areas of the community are covered by lakes, ponds and streams. There is a high percentage of land holdings in the town owned by public entities which have reserved them for water supply or airport purposes. This provides an opportunity for regional recreational development. Trails for hiking, equestrian and biking use which link across the whole region are being extensively developed. In addition, historic pride is taken into account as Leicester seeks inclusion in the Blackstone National Heritage Corridor, a significant recognized National Park Service historic project. Leicester serves a need within the region for passive recreation, a vital component of the quality of life of the region's citizens living, working and touring the area and will continue to do so in the future.

Leicester has lost hundreds of manufacturing positions as the textile industry disappeared. It is clear that Leicester continues to depend upon Worcester, the second largest city in the Commonwealth, as a source of employment for its residents. The retail trade and service industries appear to offer the opportunities for realistic expansion of the present employment base.

It is also clear, however, that the economic strengths of the greater Worcester economy both now and with its growth potential over the next few decades will serve to buttress the needs of Leicester in terms of available jobs for its residents and further will likely cause the expansion of Leicester's commercial and industrial base with small firms functioning in relation to the needs of industry and the region.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Central Massachusetts, bordered by Paxton on the north, Auburn and Worcester on the east, Charlton and Oxford on the south, and Spencer on the west. Leicester is 46 miles west of Boston; 48 miles from Providence, Rhode Island; and 172 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 24.68 sq. miles

Land Area: 23.36 sq. miles

Population: 10,191

Density: 436 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Buffumville Lake Station)

Normal temperature in January.....21.7°F

Normal temperature in July.....69.8°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.4"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Leicester, Paxton, Worcester South, Worcester North

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 892-7000

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1722

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	5,417		
Democrats	2,362	43.6	%
Republicans	534	9.9	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	2,521	46.5	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Leicester town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	10,471	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	10,471	100.0
Male.....	5,094	48.6	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	183	1.7
Female.....	5,377	51.4	Mexican.....	21	0.2
Under 5 years.....	617	5.9	Puerto Rican.....	103	1.0
5 to 9 years.....	788	7.5	Cuban.....	9	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	859	8.2	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	50	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	808	7.7	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	10,288	98.3
20 to 24 years.....	606	5.8	White alone.....	9,952	95.0
25 to 34 years.....	1,325	12.7	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,819	17.4	Total population.....	10,471	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,488	14.2	In households.....	10,073	96.2
55 to 59 years.....	517	4.9	Householder.....	3,683	35.2
60 to 64 years.....	348	3.3	Spouse.....	2,178	20.8
65 to 74 years.....	663	6.3	Child.....	3,357	32.1
75 to 84 years.....	457	4.4	Own child under 18 years.....	2,468	23.6
85 years and over.....	176	1.7	Other relatives.....	441	4.2
Median age (years).....	36.4	(X)	Under 18 years.....	151	1.4
18 years and over.....	7,752	74.0	Nonrelatives.....	414	4.0
Male.....	3,683	35.2	Unmarried partner.....	212	2.0
Female.....	4,069	38.9	In group quarters.....	398	3.8
21 years and over.....	7,227	69.0	Institutionalized population.....	191	1.8
62 years and over.....	1,509	14.4	Noninstitutionalized population.....	207	2.0
65 years and over.....	1,296	12.4	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	518	4.9	Total households.....	3,683	100.0
Female.....	778	7.4	Family households (families).....	2,708	73.5
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,299	35.3
One race.....	10,365	99.0	Married-couple family.....	2,178	59.1
White.....	10,083	96.3	With own children under 18 years.....	1,030	28.0
Black or African American.....	134	1.3	Female householder, no husband present.....	387	10.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	32	0.3	With own children under 18 years.....	206	5.6
Asian.....	78	0.7	Nonfamily households.....	975	26.5
Asian Indian.....	8	0.1	Householder living alone.....	805	21.9
Chinese.....	5	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	343	9.3
Filipino.....	10	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	1,414	38.4
Japanese.....	6	0.1	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	861	23.4
Korean.....	10	0.1	Average household size.....	2.73	(X)
Vietnamese.....	30	0.3	Average family size.....	3.21	(X)
Other Asian ¹	9	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	6	0.1	Total housing units.....	3,826	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	3,683	96.3
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	2	-	Vacant housing units.....	143	3.7
Samoa.....	4	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	36	0.9
Some other race.....	32	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.6	(X)
Two or more races.....	106	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	4.6	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	3,683	100.0
White.....	10,175	97.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,811	76.3
Black or African American.....	167	1.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	872	23.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	71	0.7	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.93	(X)
Asian.....	97	0.9	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.12	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	14	0.1			
Some other race.....	64	0.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	132
Conventional Federal:	0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	0
Federal (Section 8):	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester area, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 connects to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 9, going E-W across the state, and 56, which runs N-S. The Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90) passes near the southern boundary of the town and is easily accessible.

Rail

Passenger rail service is available to all points on the Amtrak network through neighboring Worcester.

Bus

Leicester is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA), which provides fixed route service between Leicester and Worcester. The WRTA also offers paratransit services for the elderly and disabled.

Other

The Worcester Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,500' and 6,999' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.